

War Office,
26th November 1917.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officer, Non-commissioned Officers and Men:—

Maj. (A./Lt.-Col.) Lewis Pugh Evans, D.S.O., R. Highrs., comd'g. a Battalion, Linc. R.

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership. Lt.-Col. Evans took his battalion in perfect order through a terrific enemy barrage, personally formed up all units, and led them to the assault. While a strong machine-gun emplacement was causing casualties, and the troops were working round the flank, Lt.-Col. Evans rushed at it himself and by firing his revolver through the loophole forced the garrison to capitulate.

After capturing the first objective he was severely wounded in the shoulder, but refused to be bandaged, and re-formed the troops, pointed out all future objectives, and again led his battalion forward. Again badly wounded, he nevertheless continued to command until the second objective was won, and, after consolidation, collapsed from loss of blood. As there were numerous casualties, he refused assistance, and by his own efforts ultimately reached the Dressing Station.

His example of cool bravery stimulated in all ranks the highest valour and determination to win.

No. P.649 Sjt. William Francis Burman, Rif. Brig. (Stepney, E.).

For most conspicuous bravery when the advance of his Company in attack was held up by an enemy machine gun firing at point blank range. He shouted to the men next to him to wait a few minutes, and going forward alone to what seemed certain death, killed the enemy gunner and carried the gun to the Company's objective, where he subsequently used it with great effect. By this exceptionally gallant deed the progress of the attack was assured.

About 15 minutes later it was observed that the battalion on the right was being impeded by a party of about 40 of the enemy, who were enfilading them. Sjt. Burman with two others ran forward and got behind the enemy, killing 6 and capturing 2 officers and 29 other ranks.

No. 2060 Sjt. John James Dwyer, Aus. M.G. Corps, Aus. Imp. Force.

For most conspicuous bravery when in attack, Sjt. Dwyer, in charge of a Vickers machine gun, went forward with the first wave of the brigade.

On reaching the final objective this Non-commissioned Officer rushed his gun forward in advance of the captured position in order to obtain a commanding spot. Whilst advancing he noticed an enemy machine gun firing on the troops on our right flank and causing casualties. Unhesitatingly he rushed his gun forward to within thirty yards of the enemy gun and fired point blank at it, putting it out of action and killing the gun crew. He then seized the gun, and, totally ignoring the snipers

from the rear of the enemy position, carried it back across the shell-swept ground to our front line and established both it and his Vickers gun on the right flank of our brigade.

Sjt. Dwyer commanded these guns with great coolness and when the enemy counter-attacked our positions he rendered great assistance in repulsing them.

On the following day when the position was heavily shelled, this Non-commissioned Officer took up successive positions. On one occasion his Vickers gun was blown up by shell fire, but he conducted his gun team back to Headquarters through the enemy barrage, secured one of the reserve guns, and rushed it back to our position in the shortest possible time.

During the whole of the attack his contempt of danger, cheerfulness and courage raised the spirits of all who were in his sector of the line.

No. 8133 Sjt. Joseph Lister, Lan. Fus. (Reddish, Stockport).

For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when advancing to the first objective, his Company came under machine-gun fire from the direction of two "pill-boxes." Seeing that the galling fire would hold up our advance and prevent our troops keeping up with the barrage, Sjt. Lister dashed ahead of his men and found a machine gun firing from a shell hole in front of the "pill-box." He shot two of the enemy gunners, and the remainder surrendered to him. He then went on to the "pill-box" and shouted to the occupants to surrender. They did so with the exception of one man, whom Sjt. Lister shot dead; whereupon about 100 of the enemy emerged from shell holes further to the rear and surrendered.

This Non-commissioned Officer's prompt act of courage enabled our line to advance with hardly a check and to keep up with the barrage, the loss of which might have jeopardised the whole course of the local battle.

No. 456 Sjt. Lewis M'Gee, late Aus. Imp. Force.

For most conspicuous bravery when in the advance to the final objective, Sjt. M'Gee led his platoon with great dash and bravery, though strongly opposed, and under heavy shell fire.

His platoon was suffering severely and the advance of the Company was stopped by machine-gun fire from a "pill-box" post. Single-handed Sjt. M'Gee rushed the post, armed only with a revolver. He shot some of the crew and captured the rest, and thus enabled the advance to proceed. He reorganised the remnants of his platoon and was foremost in the remainder of the advance, and during consolidation of the position he did splendid work.

This Non-commissioned Officer's coolness and bravery were conspicuous and contributed largely to the success of the Company's operations.

Sjt. M'Gee was subsequently killed in action.

No. 1817 Sjt. John Molyneux, R. Fus. (St-Helens).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. During an attack, which was held up by machine-gun fire which caused many